

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO
March 11, 2008**

The City Council of the City of Artesia, New Mexico met in the City Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in regular session with Mayor Burch presiding, and the following present to wit:

Manuel Barragan	Raul Rodriguez
Luis Florez	J.B. Smith
Terry Hill	Antonio Torrez
Raye Miller	

The following were absent:

George Holmes (*joined the meeting at 7:38 p.m.)

Also present:

Aubrey Hobson, City Clerk-Treasurer
John Caraway, City Attorney

It was determined that a quorum was present. The invocation was given by Councilor Rodriguez, and all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Florez moved to adjust the agenda to consider items 17A, 17B and 17C, at this time. The motion was seconded by Councilor Torrez and upon vote, the motion passed.

Mayor

Mayor Burch presented the following names for appointed officers for the city.

City Clerk-Treasurer -Aubrey Hobson
Human Resources Director – Bill Thalman
Police Chief -Don Raley
Fire Chief – J.D. Hummingbird
Community Services Director – Tina Torres
Infrastructure Director – Robert Forrest
City Attorney – John Caraway

Councilor Hill moved to approve the list of appointed officers for the city. The motion was seconded by Councilor Florez and upon vote, the motion passed.

Mayor Burch presented the following council committees for 2008-2010:

Budget and Finance: George Holmes (chair), Luis Florez, Raye Miller
Personnel: Antonio Torrez (Chair), Luis Florez, George Holmes
Police and Fire Luis Florez (Chair), Terry Hill, Antonio Torrez
Infrastructure: Raye Miller (Chair), J.B. Smith, Antonio Torrez
Administration: Terry Hill (Chair), Raul Rodriguez, Manuel Barragan
Planning: Raul Rodriguez (Chair), Manuel Barragan, J.B. Smith
Government: Phillip Burch, George Holmes, Raye Miller

Councilor Torrez moved to approve the council committees for 2008-2010. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill and upon vote, the motion passed.

Mayor Burch opened the floor for nominations for Mayor Pro Tem. Councilor Torrez nominated George Holmes to continue as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill and upon vote, the motion passed.

Visitors

Tawya Sanchez requested the use of Jaycee Park on Friday, May 16, 2008 and Saturday May 17, 2008 for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Ms. Sanchez also requested the use of barricades, cones, generator, power supplies and extra dumpsters. Councilor Florez moved to approve the request for the use of facilities for the Relay for Life and to waive usage fees (except for security). The motion was seconded by Councilor Torrez and upon vote, the motion passed.

Leigh Ann Thomas, representing Presbyterian Medical Services (PMS), requested approval of a Hospital/Emergency Services Linkage Agreement. Ms. Thomas reported that this agreement would allow the city to coordinate behavioral health treatment services with PMS. Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve the Linkage Agreement with Presbyterian Medical Services. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill and upon vote, the motion passed.

City Departments and Employees

Mayor Burch presented a proclamation naming March as "Purchasing Month" to Purchasing Agent Mary Josselyn.

Consent Agenda

Councilor Hill moved to approve the Consent Agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Councilor Torrez, and upon vote, the motion passed.

The Consent Agenda includes:

1. Approval of Minutes: * February 26, 2008 - Regular meeting
2. Consideration of Bids:
3. Contracts, Leases and Agreements:
 - A. ✓Approval of change order with Constructors for STIP project
4. Appointments:
5. Resignations:
6. Dates of Hearing:
7. *Travel and Training:
 - A. Human Resource – Permission for one (1) employee to attend How to Install, Configure and Administer Linux in Albuquerque, NM. Request actual expenses.
 - B. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend a Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault conference in Las Vegas, NV. (*All expenses paid by scholarship*).
 - C. Executive and Legislative – Permission for interested elected officials to attend the NMML District meeting in Roswell, NM. Request actual expenses and mileage.

- D. Executive and Legislative – Permission for interested elected officials to attend the NMML 2008 Newly Elected Officials Institutes in Albuquerque, NM or Las Cruces, NM. Request actual expenses and mileage.
 - E. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend Radar Lidar Train the Trainer in Ruidoso, NM. Request actual expenses.
 - F. Police – Permission for two (2) employees to attend the SFST Instructor update training in Ruidoso, NM. Request actual expenses.
 - G. Wastewater – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the NM Rural Water conference in Albuquerque, NM. Request actual expenses.
 - H. Commission on Aging – Permission for two (2) employees to attend the Aging Network training session in Las Cruces, NM. Request actual expenses.
 - I. Planning – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the NMFMA Spring Conference and Certification Exam in Santa Fe, NM. Request actual expenses and mileage.
 - J. Fire – Permission for one (1) employee to attend Basic Cardiac Life Support & First Aid Instructor training in Ruidoso, NM. Request actual expenses.
 - K. Fire – Permission for two (2) employees to attend the Region III conference in Ruidoso, NM. Request actual expenses.
 - L. Fire – Permission for one (1) employee to attend Fire Inspector I in Socorro, NM. Request actual expenses.
 - M. Fire – Permission for one (1) employee to attend Fire Officer II in Socorro, NM. Request actual expenses.
 - N. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend Effective Recruitment Techniques in Allen, TX. Request actual expenses.
 - O. √F&A – Permission for two (2) employees to attend the NMML Clerk's Association meeting in Taos, NM. Request actual expenses.
8. Use of Facilities (*approval contingent upon receipt of all applicable fees, license(s) and dept approvals*):
 9. Budgeted Items:
 - A. Fire – Permission to purchase tables and chairs for training room
 10. Non-budgeted Items:
 11. *Payment of Bills

Public Hearings

Mayor Burch declared the meeting open for public hearing for the following:

1. Consideration and approval of a Restaurant (Beer and Wine) Liquor License for Piccolin of Artesia, Inc., dba Piccolino's, located at 201 N. 1st Street, Artesia, New Mexico.

Anthony Urquides, of WESST, representing Belisario Grado, stated that the application process began in June 2007 and that the owners understand the responsibility of having the Restaurant License. Mr. Urquides stated that the owners see this as a growth opportunity for their business. The WESST organization supports their application.

Kathy Colt stated that she supports the application, and believes in personal responsibility.

Councilor Florez moved to approve the Restaurant License for Piccolino's. The motion was seconded by Councilor Barragan, and upon roll call vote, with the following votes recorded:

Aye: Barragan, Florez, Miller, Smith, Torrez

Nay: Hill, Rodriguez

the motion passed.

Visitors who did not request to be on the Agenda

Susie Taylor, representing the Artesia Drug and Crime Coalition, reported that PVT has been airing a DVD on "Raising Drug-Free Kids". Ms. Taylor also reported that there will be additional DVDs in the series and that PVT will be broadcasting them as well.

Eddy County Commissioner Lewis Derrick reported that the County would be reviewing the Forty-year water plan on Wednesday, March 12th.

Personnel

Councilor Hill moved, upon recommendation of the Mayor, to hire Esteban Sepulveda to the position of Certified Officer in the Police Department at a salary of \$3,282 per month (CA23). The motion was seconded by Councilor Florez and upon vote, the motion passed.

Human Resources Director Bill Thalman presented the safety statistics for February 2008.

Public Safety

Police

Chief Raley presented the department statistics for February 2008.

Councilor Torrez moved to approve \$15,000 from General Fund for a new security system for City Hall. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill and upon vote, the motion passed.

Mayor Pro Tem Holmes joined the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Holmes moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Administrative Offices of the Courts and the City of Artesia for warrant enforcement. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill and upon vote, the motion passed.

Fire

Chief Hummingbird reported that the Early Warning System has been installed and tests were successful. The monthly test will be scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month, at 10:30 a.m.

Chief Hummingbird presented the department statistics for February 2008.

Community Development

Community Development Director Tina Torres presented the departmental statistics for February 2008.

Ms. Torres reported that Suzanne Valencia has withdrawn her application for a home occupation license, so there is no further action needed by Council.

Bill McFarland, representing Smith Engineering, presented an update on the status of current projects.

City Clerk

City Clerk Aubrey Hobson presented an updated Open Meetings Resolution, with changes to the Agenda portion to reflect the departmental reorganizations. Mayor Pro Tem Holmes moved to adopt the updated Open Meetings Resolution, Resolution No. 1288. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill and upon vote, the motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 1288

Mr. Hobson reported that there was a tie between two of the logo designs. Councilor Torrez requested that the two designs be sent out to the city employees for their vote again.

Mayor

Councilor Rodriguez moved that in accordance with 10-15-1-H(5), H(7) and H(8), the Council and Mayor go into executive session regarding collective bargaining, pending litigation and purchase of real property. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Holmes and upon vote, the motion passed.

Mayor Burch declared a short recess at 8:00 p.m.
Council recessed to executive session at 8:05 p.m.
Council reconvened at 9:25 p.m.

Councilor Torrez moved that the only matters discussed in executive session pertained to collective bargaining, pending litigation and purchase of real property, and no action was taken. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Holmes and upon vote, the motion passed.

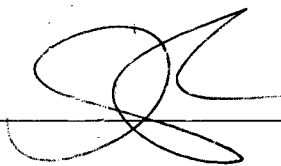
Mayor Pro Tem Holmes moved to allow the City Attorney to pursue, for the Mayor's signature, further paperwork necessary to consummate the settlement agreement between Penasco Valley Telephone (PVT) and the City of Artesia. The motion was seconded by Councilor Florez and upon vote, the motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.,
March 11, 2008.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk